

**Minutes
Ferris State University
Academic Senate Meeting
March 14, 2017- 10:00 a.m.**

Members in Attendance: Alspach, Bacon, C., Bacon, M., Bajor, Balanda, Baran, Berghoef, Briggs, Bright, Conley, Cronk, Epps, Fadayami, Foulk, Fox, Gray, Hancock, Hanna, Ing, Isler, Lewis, Piercey, Pisani, Rumpf, Shimko, Stone, Thapa, Todd, VanLent, Wancour, Zyla

Members absent with cause: Brecken, Dinardo, Drake, Jenerou

Members absent: Maike, Marion, Mattis

Ex Officio and Guests: Adeyanju, Damari, Durst, Eisler, Franklund, Haik, Nicol, Johnson, Hawkins, Martin, Campbell, Wilber, Haneline Gillette, Stanislav

1.	President Thapa called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.
2.	Approval of Minutes. Senator Ing moved to approve the minutes. Senator Zyla seconded. The motion passed 93% to 7%.
3.	Open Forum. Senator Piercey encouraged any faculty who have an interest in Mathematics Education to consider attending the Michigan Section meeting off the Mathematical Association on March 31-April 1. He also commented on the event Connections with Music speaker from Maryland.
4.	Officer Reports/ President Report President Thapa noted an alumnus of the surveying program has been the first ever elected as president of the national surveying society. President Thapa also recognized Marilyn Gillette, emeritus and first women president of the Academic Senate. She said it was nice to see how the organization has grown and continued to be an important entity on the Ferris campus. Vice-President Bacon noted that International Education chair Scott Cohen will be presenting later in the meeting. He also said that the task force on health promotions has been investigating the historical perspective on the committee as presented by Senator Berghoef and at the suggestion of Birkam Center Lindsay Barber will be reinstating a health survey which will answer some questions about need. He also read a report from the Senate Elections chair. Secretary Isler had no report. President Eisler gave his report early because of conflicts in schedule. He noted that he was relieved that the bill to eliminate the Michigan income tax was defeated and noted that the Presidents Council, during their Lansing meeting, had gone over and lobbied the legislature. He also discussed the March SPARC meeting which will focus on student debt. In the rankings of most expensive universities our ranking has decreased from 5 th but we it still remains a significant issue. Vice-President Bacon asked if the debt was normalized for type of student population. President Eisler said no, it was based on undergraduates only. He also encouraged faculty and staff to attend the Ambassador Neumann presentation that afternoon.
5.	Committee Reports UCC Chair Kemi Fadayomi reported on the 102 proposals the committee is working through. She noted the issue of certificates came up with the Automotive program, and the proposal was sent back because it did not have the minimum 6 credits. She also noted programs like the DCCL need an approval process and a college home. Associate Provost Johnson commented that they need an individualized Form A. Vice-President of Student Government Jared Law presented on recent activities. He talked about how they had conducted FLITE community conversations and learned about the purpose of new furniture on 2 nd floor (not soundproof and possible hours. They also commented on hours and plug accessibility.
6	Interdisciplinary Task Force on Collaboration.

	<p>Senator Piercey presented the recommendations of the task force. He noted that in the fall, after speaking with the provost they were asked not to provide all of the logistical issues such as scheduling, load, etc and leave that to Academic Affairs. Recommendations were as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academic Affairs set aside annual funds for internal grant program. 2. Host annual conference 3. Academic Affairs address logistical issues; sustaining funding models, load and SCH, Banner, student awareness and mechanism to house interdisciplinary programs. 4. Establish faculty directory (compensated), supported by committee 5. Add Academic Affairs Award. <p>Senator Stone said while she supports the concept the devil is in the details- as the internal grant which may support release for one year may not be something the faculty are eligible for in a second year. Senator Hanna said that this is an idea whose time has come and suggests the director not be beholden to a single college. Senator Wancour also expressed support but concern about sustainability. Vice-President Bacon said it would be hard to vote on the motion without knowing the details. Senator Piercey said the director would be viewed as at least a quarter release time, but depending on size of program may need to grow. Senator Fadayomi said this would help to provide distinction for Ferris. Senator Berghoef asked if this was only for courses. Vice-Provost Johnson said that in secondary education they do it through interdisciplinary unit planning. A vote will be taken at the April meeting.</p>
7a	<p>New Concentration- Sports Communication Program Chair Fadayomi moved to approve the new concentration. Senator Mary Bacon seconded. Motion passed 83% to 10% with 7% abstaining.</p>
7ba	<p>Appointment of Senator to General Education Committee. Senator Alspach noted that there had been no volunteers and encouraged those with an interest to contact Paula to be appointed for the remainder of this year.</p>
8.	<p>International Education Committee Report. Chair Scott Cohen came to report on actions of the committee. He noted he had been working on the committee for three years. They are partway through the process and would not be hosting a reception this year for all nominees. He named current nominees. The committee sent a letter of support to President Eisler relating to the January travel and have been working with the Director of International Education to change the student abroad policies and procedures. He also intends to review and update the committee website. Vice-President Bacon noted that the policy and procedures are separate. The procedures need to provide clarification and have correct dates. Chair Cohen noted that the dates have not been released because they have not completed their review. Senator Gray noted that it is true that one timeline is difficult to work for all trips. Senator Piercey asked who answers questions about the summer application forms. Chair Cohen said those questions would go to Dr. Prakasam.</p>
9.	<p>Announcements/Presidents Report. President Thapa said faculty credentials will be an upcoming topic.</p> <p>Provost Blake was absent.</p>
10.	<p>Open Forum General Education coordinator Cliff Franklund noted that they are scaling out the General Education and working on a policy to figure out how to deal with exceptions for seniors. They are also looking at structures for associates of arts degrees. They are also rewriting policies to reflect accurately the diversity requirements. Emeriti President Haneline noted that the DCCL had been approved outside of the normal college structure but there should be an effective way to solve the problem. Todd Stanislav from the Faculty Center encouraged all to attend the speaker events for Debbie Irving and thanked the Senate for being a co-sponsor. Senator Alspach reported that her RSO raised \$400 in the Red-Out event. Senator Fadayomi said that she felt a task force should be formed to respond to the information Cliff Franklund had presented in January about the results of advising and the NSSE data.</p>
11.	<p>Recognition of the Volleyball and Football teams.</p>

	President Thapa recognized the achievements of both the volleyball team and the football team for their historic seasons. They were presented with a certificate and a photograph was taken.
12.	The meeting was adjourned at 11:30a.m.